

State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

DOGM MINERALS PROGRAM FILE COPY

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October 25, 1989

TO:

Minerals File

FROM:

Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist ₩₩

RE:

Field Inspection, S & S Mining Company, Red Rock Mine,

M/037/050, San Juan County, Utah

I visited the Red Rock site on October 25, 1989 with Mr. Sal Venticinque of the Grand Area Office, and Mr. Clayton Stocks, of S & S Mining. This visit was made to evaluate the final reclamation at the Red Rock mine site. The operator finished all reclamation at the site on October 15, 1989. All reclamation includes grading, topsoiling and reseeding. This site visit was made to determine whether or not the site had been reclaimed properly and to the satisfaction of the Bureau of Land Management and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

Mr. Venticinque had been at the site earlier this month to evaluate the reclamation. At that time, most of the reclamation had been completed. Mr. Venticinque had written a letter indicating to the Division that reclamation was satisfactory at that time. During this visit we noticed some extra disturbance, to the site, that was caused by several hunting vehicles using the recently reclaimed road that bisects the site. The operator had installed berms and had ripped this road thoroughly, bringing up large rocks and causing a very rough surface texture to the road. This, however, did not deter some very determined deer hunters from accessing the site and driving across it several times, causing compaction to the previously reclaimed roadways. These recompacted roads will probably be difficult to reclaim unless they are ripped again.

The operator will not be held responsible by the Division or the BLM for this new disturbance or impact to this site, since it could not be controlled by the operator at any time. This redisturbed access road will probably remain disturbed and will be difficult to revegetate in months to come and will have to, no doubt, be left as a roadway.

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During similar, future reclamation projects, it will probably be prudent for the Division, or the BLM, to erect signs, indicating that the site is being reclaimed and for people to keep off it. No signs were constructed or established at this site previous to this date. I spoke to Sal Venticinque of the BLM, before leaving today, and he agreed that he would try to get some signs posted, at this site, before the weekend. This weekend will, no doubt, bring even more hunters to the area. This area seems to be very attractive to hunters as there is a large indigenous deer population that utilizes this site, or portions of it. This, unfortunately, is something that the Division has not encountered and did not anticipate before reclaiming this site. On future sites in similar locations, it will be necessary to post warning signs or keep off signs so that the public, at least the thinking public, will not redisturb a reclaimed site.

We walked the entire site, during this visit, and found everything to have been reclaimed in the manner that we had requested. The operator, in fact, reclaimed some of the roads accessing the site that he was not originally required to. We indicated to Mr. Stocks, that the BLM and the Division was very happy with his efforts in reclaiming the Red Rock site, and commended him on going the extra mile in doing reclamation that he was not requested to do. I told Mr. Stocks that I would be approaching the Board with a request to approve a new form and amount of surety for the Red Rock site, and if that was approved we would then release his larger bond to him, hopefully before the end of the month. A \$1600 reclamation surety will remain on this site until it is determined that the revegetation is good and the site has been well stabilized. This will take from one to three years to establish.

jb cc: Clayton Stocks Lowell Braxton Wayne Hedberg MN4/167-168











